

**67-19-12.2 Education benefit plan for law enforcement and correctional officers.**

- (1) As used in this section, "law enforcement officer" has the same meaning as in Section 53-13-103 and "correctional officer" has the same meaning as in Section 53-13-104.
- (2) The executive director shall establish a plan authorizing any agency to implement an educational compensation program for law enforcement officers and correctional officers employed by that agency.
- (3) The program shall provide that in order for a law enforcement officer or correctional officer to qualify for education benefits for college or university education, the law enforcement officer or correctional officer shall:
  - (a) provide a certified transcript of grades, demonstrating a grade point average of 3.0 or greater, from an accredited college or university; and
  - (b) have successfully completed the probationary employment period with the employing agency.
- (4) The program shall also provide that the agency may consider a law enforcement officer or correctional officer to receive additional compensation as follows for higher education degrees earned on or after April 30, 2001, in a subject area directly related to the law enforcement officer's or correctional officer's employment with the agency:
  - (a) 5.5% for an associate's degree;
  - (b) 5.5% for a bachelor's degree; and
  - (c) 5.5% for a master's degree.
- (5) Expenses incurred by an agency to provide additional compensation under this section may be only from the agency's existing budget.

Amended by Chapter 249, 2010 General Session